

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended)      A method of treating manure comprising:
  - a)      mixing a quantity of manure with lime such that said mixture has a basic pH above 11.0;
  - b)      adding a first coagulant to said mixture, thereby promoting floc formation within said mixture;
  - c)      separating the floc from the mixture, thereby forming solids and a liquid portion;
  - d)      adding a second coagulant and a struvite-promoting compound to said liquid portion, thereby forming solids and clear liquid; and
  - e)      separating the clear liquid from the solids.
2. (original)      The method according to claim 1 wherein the manure is selected from the group consisting of hog manure, feedlot manure, dairy cow manure and chicken manure.
3.      cancelled
4. (currently amended)      The method according to claim 1 wherein the basic pH is a pH above 11.5
5. (currently amended)      The method according to claim 1 wherein the basic pH is between 11.5-12.5.
6. (original)      The method according to claim 1 including removing evolved ammonia during step (a).
7. (original)      The method according to claim 6 wherein the ammonia is recovered by bubbling the evolved ammonia into water.
8. (currently amended)      The method according to claim 1 wherein the first coagulant is selected from the group consisting of alum and polymer 49A-SUPERFLOC™ C-

496PG Flocculant (cationic polyacrylamide).

9. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein the second coagulant is selected from the group consisting of alum and polymer-49A.

SUPERFLOC™ C-496PG Flocculant (cationic polyacrylamide).

10. (original) The method according to claim 1 wherein the struvite-promoting compound is selected from the group consisting of  $MgCl_2$ ,  $MgSO_4$ ,  $MgCO_3$  and magnesium oxide.

11. cancelled

12. cancelled

13. cancelled

14. cancelled

15. cancelled

16. cancelled

17. cancelled

18. (new) The method according to claim 1 wherein the lime and manure is mixed vigorously for several hours.

19. (new) The method according to claim 1 wherein evolved gases from step (a) are removed under negative pressure.

20. (new) The method according to claim 1 wherein in step (c), the floc is separated from the mixture by mixing the mixture until the floc becomes stable and a layer of clear liquid begins to form at the top of the mixture.